

Import of non-edible oil

†2962. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of non-edible oil has reached up to 1,25,129 tonnes till November, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons for the increase of 89.5 per cent in import of non-edible oil in comparison to 66017 tonnes of the last year;

(c) whether it is a fact that seven concerned officers have been suspended under this import scam;

(d) if so, the loss of payment of taxes or duties in thousands crore rupees suffered by Government due to this scam; and

(e) the present status of the enquiry of this scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Government is aware that there has been an increase in the import of non-edible oils. No specific reasons can be attributed for such increase.

(c) to (e) No case of import-scam in respect of non-edible oils has come to the notice. However suitable alerts have been issued to the field formations to check mis-declaration.

Updating of passbooks by banks

2963. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for the banks to update the passbooks of their respective customers periodically and regularly;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the Nationalised Banks, particularly the State Bank of Patiala in Gurgaon, refuse to update the passbooks on one pretext or the other, thereby putting the customers, particularly aged and retired customers, to a lot of inconvenience; and

(c) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken to ensure that the bank staff perform their duties in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.